

Because of the process in India of cutting down the male plant in the ganja and hashish fields, word of mouth has spread that the male plant is worthless for smoking. Don't believe it for three reasons. First, most people who state this claim have never grown their own marijuana and are only repeating hearsay. secondly, every cannabis sativa plant produces some resin, and thirdly, everyone I know who has actually grown his own states that the male has provided a good high.

In a controlled experiment the author once witnessed, the plants had grown to a height of four or five feet and, since it was the first home grown crop, nobody knew how to distinguish the male from the female plant. The cultivator had a small book which said to cut down the male, but offered little assistance in how to distinguish one from the other. After the male had been identified by its height and the shedding of its pollen, the plants were labeled, harvested, and dried. The plants were then cut and separated into four different piles: top male, bottom male, top female, bottom female; and six "joints" were rolled from each group and identified by the cultivator. On each of four successive nights, each person "blew" one joint, which was distributed by the cultivator (first night, male top; then female bottom, male bottom, and female top). Everyone was amazed because of the intensity of the "stone out" every night.

The following nights the remaining male weed was "blown" and everyone continued to get "ripped outa their minds." Four of the participating "heads" were from Hawaii, the remaining two from San Francisco. Hawaii and San Francisco consistently get "super weed" because of the high Asian traffic, yet each "head" still claims that "It was some of the best weed I've ever smoked."

The point is this: one cannot accurately make the generalization that the male plant is useless for smoking. Each crop must be tested to determine its potency, because Cannabis differs with the geographical region in which it is grown. The male bottom leaves in one crop could be more potent than the female top in another.

Meanwhile, back at the plant, the stalk is herbaceous and four-cornered. At maturity, a healthy plant can have a stalk up to two inches in diameter. When uncrowded, the plant will sprout many spreading branches and attain a height of 20 feet, depending on climate.

Young plants are similar in all respects. After 6-10 weeks growth, depending on soil and climate conditions, the maturation process begins. Although there is still little difference in appearance, there are rather striking differences in function.

The male (staminate) plant produces the pollen. Its flowers are borne in very small delicate auxiliary panicles consisting of about five green, yellow, or purplish sepals which open wide at maturity and disclose stamens. These stamens are filled with yellow pollen, which is carried by the wind to the female plant.

SEE CENTER PICTURE

The female plant receives the pollen into its inconspicuous pistillate (egg-bearing, female flower) which patiently awaits the arrival of the pollen. The female plant casts her fate to the wind and longs for a gentle breeze to bring her the pollen. This process in more sophisticated circles is known as "plant-ball". Without the pollen the female will not be able to propagate. Other plants can rely on insects for the transportation of the pollen, but not the cannabis. Insects and bees refuse to associate with the plant; only the wind can seduce the female.

However, marijuana is a highly developed intelligent plant which is HERMAPHRODITIC. That is, both male and female plants are capable of growing the opposite (secondary sex) sex organs thus fertilizing itself to produce seeds. A neat (non-human) trick indeed!

Thus the reproduction process begins, mature seeds form, fall to the ground, are covered in the fall and winter, and start to grow again in the spring. Cannabis lives from spring to fall and as long as the seeds can be protected by a soft covering of soil or leaves, cannabis will continue to grow and spread as a wild weed.